

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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and Their Activities

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Laboratories of the Pazmany Peter University of Budapest:

1. Department of Bacteriology, located at Hogyes Endre street (number unknown).

Director: Professor Farago (fnu).

Researcher: Novak (fnu), reader at the University.

2. The laboratory is well-equipped and war damages have been completely restored. It has conducted (as of January) experiments with a new antibiotic agent effective against "gram positive and negative bacteria". The mould which produces this agent was not identified up to June 1948.

3. Routine work: bacteriological investigations for the clinics of the University such as identification of bacteria, the counting of microbes in the air of the wards, etc. The separation of infested animals from each other and from personnel was not carried out according to Western standards. Animals were kept in the basement of the lab building, etc., which was a common practice in Hungary.

4. [redacted] there are no activities concerned with biological warfare being carried on in this laboratory. Professor Farago does not participate in bacteriological research work.

5. Mr. Novak is a well-educated specialist whom [redacted] an opportunist, 25X1

6. Department of Biology, Eszterhazy ucca 5. Formerly headed by Professor Albert Szentgyörgyi and Mr. Laky (fnu), reader at the University. Both men left Hungary sometime ago.

7. [redacted] there are no activities in this laboratory having to do with biological warfare, although [redacted] just what sort of scientific research is currently being conducted there.

8. The laboratories of this department are the best equipped for biochemical research in Hungary.

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Laboratories of the Jozsef Nador Polytechnical University, Budapest.

9. Department of Food Chemistry, Budafoki ut 5, Central Building;
10. Department of Agricultural Chemistry and Mikology, Budafoki ut 3, Chemical Building.
11. Both laboratories are without directors at present. (Professor) Mihaly Vuk retired and Professor Binder-Kotrba (fnu) is deceased.
12. The laboratories were destroyed during the war and their reconstruction is now in progress. There are no scientific activities here for the time being.

Laboratories not affiliated with the Universities

13. Biological laboratory in the Department of Natural History, National Museum. (Address unknown but close to Calvin ter, Baross utca).
14. Director: Toth, Laszlo - currently guest of the Wanner-Gren Foundation at Upsala, Sweden. Director: Farduc, Imre (?)
15. The laboratory is small and fairly well-equipped. Research work: atmospheric nitrogen fixation of different bacteria, soil bacteria, etc. There is positively no research in the field of biological warfare here. 25X1
16. Hungarian Institute for Biological Research at Tihany:
 Director: (Professor) Beznak (fnu) ✓
 Researchers: Gerendas, Mihaly
 Csaky, T. Z. (fnu)
 ✓Havas, L. J. (fnu)
17. This institute has large, well-equipped laboratories. In addition to the researchers listed above there are numerous others 25X1
18. There are no secrecy or security measures around and in the institute, although an American representative wishing to visit the institute was not taken there because of fear of Communist repercussions.
19. Research work: Havas conducts experiments with oncogenic and polyploidogenic agents. His experiments are directed at the inactivation and inhibition of the effects of these agents and at the physiological effects of these compounds (colchicin, acenaphten, etc). He also examines the effect of polyploidogenic compounds on different bacteria and moulds, the relations between these agents and the blood and protoplasma. Furthermore, the biological relation between heteroauxin, trombin, pro-trombin, heparin, vitamin K, and the oncogenic and polyploidogenic agents. Havas also conducts experiments with plant tumors.
20. Gerendas concentrates his efforts also on blood chemistry. He experiments with trombin inactivation and attempts to establish the effect of different

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compounds such as toluidine blue, trombokinase, etc. on the activity of trombin.

21. Csaky experiments with atmospheric nitrogen fixation of different bacteria, soil bacteria, etc. in cooperation with Toth and Parduc in the biological laboratory of the Department of Natural History, National Museum.

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23. [redacted] this institute, although adequately equipped, does not conduct experiments in biological warfare.

24. The four laboratories of the University of Agricultural Sciences at Budapest, Magyarovar, Keszthely and Debreczen are not adequately equipped for experiments in biological warfare; these are not really institutes on the scientific level of a university, but can better be classed as trade schools. According to source, no research work had been conducted in these laboratories.

25. Department of Bacteriology of the Veterinary University at Budapest, Rottenbiller ucca. Director: (Professor) Manninger, Rezso.

26. Intensive research activities are being conducted by Professor Manninger in the genetics of bacteria, induced mutations on bacteria by bacteria and X-rays, etc., modifying the number of the genes by bacteria, the introduction of genes of the one species into another species, etc.

27. [redacted] Manninger would be connected with activities which helped the Soviet war potential, and therefore [redacted] the intensive research work at this institute has nothing to do with biological warfare.

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28. This belief is supported also by the fact that the premises of the institute are freely accessible to scientists working outside the institute.

29. Biological Division of the Hungarian Institute of Chemistry (Orszagos Chemiai Intezet), Keleti Karoly ucca 24; area 350 x 400 m with numerous buildings. Director: Benedek (fnu).

30. [redacted] the research work of this institute is concerned with biological warfare. The following factors have led [redacted] this is probably true:

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- a. the comparatively large funds allocated to this Division;
- b. the complete secrecy surrounding the activities of the Division [redacted] specialists of other divisions in the same institute have no perusal of the work of this Division);
- c. large number of personnel; no scientific publication;
- d. the large number of experimental animals (circa 6,000 guinea pigs as of January.)

31. An electromicroscope was sought for this institute in England about March 1948.

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32. Benedek, approximately 40-45 years of age, worked up to 1946 at the Alföldi Agricultural Experimental Institute in Szeged. He was transferred to head the Biological Division of the Institute of Chemistry in 1946, not because of his scientific merits, but because he is trusted by the Communist Party.

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33. Institute for Milk and Dairy Research, Magyarovar. Director: Jozser Csiszar. One of the best equipped laboratories for bacteriological research in Hungary. Research work: experiments are conducted for the preservation of milk with antibiotics and antibiotic-like agents; also on lactobacilli. [redacted] this laboratory conducts no activities relating to biological warfare.

34. Hungarian Plant Breeding Institute, Magyarovar - Laboratory for Biology and Plant Genetics. Director: (Professor) Odon Villax. Researchers: Ivan Villax, Ferencz Ordog.

35. Research work: plant breeding, plant genetics, plant tumors; genetics and physiology of bacteria; vitamin determinations for the purpose of investigating hereditary properties of plants as to their vitamin contents; also research on enzyme-determinations and new antibiotics.

36. Ivan Villax developed a new antibiotic and prepared a substance which is able to increase the activity of different antibiotics in vitro and in vivo. (The Swiss chemical factory "CIBA" invited Ivan Villax to discuss the exploitation possibilities of his new antibiotic. He will go to Switzerland on or about 25 January 1949.)

37. The experimental stations of the Ministry of Agriculture have no facilities for research in the field of biological warfare.

38. Bacteriological Laboratory of the National Institute of Public Health (Orszagos Kozegeszegugyi Intezet), at Gyali ut 4-6, Budapest. Director: Alföldi, (fnu). Research work: new sensitive determinations of different antibiotics.

39. Although the laboratory is well-equipped and has a good staff of scientists, little research work is done because the laboratory is bogged down with routine bacteriological investigations for all Hungarian hospitals.

40. [redacted] no research concerning biological warfare is conducted in this laboratory.

41. Hungarian hospitals, in general, have no bacteriological laboratories because all investigations are handled by the Institute of Public Health, erected by the Rockefeller Foundation.

42. The Hungarian Ministry of Defense had no research laboratories up to June 1948. Although considerable expense had resulted from building special installations and from reconstruction, in the summer of 1948, however, the University of Agricultural Sciences was forced to evacuate the buildings of the Bolyai Farkas Technical Institute for Warfare and return them to the Ministry of Defense. At this time, the Ministry of Defense re-established here the Technical Institute for Warfare.

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[redacted] at the time when the Soviet Union reduced by half the sum of Hungarian war reparations, the Hungarian cabinet committed itself to use this sum upon Soviet request for the purpose of strengthening Hungary's war

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potential. Shortly after this, [redacted]

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[redacted] an unknown member of the Hungarian Army, was sent abroad and entrusted with buying expensive chemicals for the Hungarian Army on the black market. The officer had a Merck catalogue on hand and was interested, among other chemicals, in: Beta-carotene, Ergosterin, vitamin C, Al_2O_3 standardized "Brockmann" for chromatography; Dioxan, and Beta-naphthol.

43. All these chemicals may well be used also in research in biological warfare, and are probably intended for the newly opened Technical Institute for Warfare, as the only laboratory under the direct command of the Ministry of Defense.

44. The Universities of Szeged, Pecs and Debrecen also have biochemical and bacteriological laboratories. The work of these laboratories is not known [redacted] no experiments concerned with biological warfare are being conducted there.

45. The Experimental Station of Budakeszi is a creation of the new regime. At the time of its creation in 1947, it was officially stated that the reason for creating this new experimental station was merely to have an adequate show place for foreign visitors in the vicinity of Budapest. This institute has an area of approximately 300 acres. No research work was done here previously. Laboratory equipment will be taken from the Institute of Plant Breeding to Budakeszi.

46. [redacted] it is unlikely that any of the Hungarian pharmaceutical factories would experiment with biological warfare projects. [redacted] the third largest Hungarian pharmaceutical factory, the "Dr. Wander Ltd.", [redacted] the factory had no bacteriological laboratory. [redacted] all bacteriological investigations for the pharmaceutical factories are handled by the above-listed institutes, with the exception of the "Chinoin", "Richter, Gedeon", and "Philaxia, Ltd."

47. The latter firm is now experimenting with the producing of a new antibiotic. The firm was unable to purify the new compound till the summer of 1948. The results showed only 50 Oxford Units per milligram, compared with penicillin, against the standard strain of staphylococcus aureus.

48. [redacted] if production of biological war material were contemplated in Hungary, it would be done in two distinct phases. The inoculation or serum material would be produced by one of the institutes described above, and only the seriological process, that is, the multiplication of the bacteria, would be done in factories. [redacted] no Hungarian chemical factory is equipped to handle such a task.

49. [redacted] numerous [redacted] Hungarian scientists, have made several attempts to renew their pre-war contacts with Soviet scientists. All such attempts have failed up to January. They were also unable to establish contacts with Rumanian and Yugoslav scientists.

50. [redacted] Yugoslav bacteriological institutes. [redacted] some bacteriological research work is going on in Yugoslavia. It happened that in the summer of 1946 [redacted] the firm "Erdelyi & Szabo"

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25X1 in Budapest on autoclaves, built for bacteriological research with a capacity of about 15 to 25 liters. The management of the firm stated [redacted] they could deliver the requested autoclaves on short notice and for a comparatively cheap price, because the factory was just in the process of finishing 16 autoclaves of the same sort. These autoclaves were part of a reparation payment from Hungary to Yugoslavia.

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